

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 /060 R

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----- 061924

R 252217Z SEP 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, HU

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - PANAM SERVICE TO BUDAPEST

REF: BUDAPEST 3184

1. WHILE WE DO NOT YET HAVE ANYTHING IN WRITING FROM PANAM, IT HAS INFORMALLY APPROACHED DEPARTMENT IN RELATION TO ITS PLANS TO START SERVICE TO BUDAPEST SPRING 1974 (ROUTING AND FREQUENCY NOT KNOWN).

2. IN THIS REGARD, PANAM HAS ASKED FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

A. COULD IBUSZ BE APPOINTED AS GENERAL SALES AGENT IN HUNGARY, OR IS MALEV ONLY POSSIBILITY?

B. DO WE KNOW UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS - IF ANY - PAN AMERICAN WOULD BE PERMITTED A) TO CONDUCT SALES FOR CONVERTIBLE CURRENCIES AND B) FOR FORINTS.

C. IS THERE ANY INFORMATION WE CAN PROVIDE REGARDING THE HUNGARIAN REQUIREMENTS FOR ESTABLISHING A BUSINESS; E.G. OPENING AN OFFICE, A BANK ACCOUNT.

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3. WE HAVE TOLD PANAM THAT DETAILED INFO IN RELATION TO THIRD QUESTION MIGHT BEST BE OBTAINED DURING THE OBVIOUSLY NECESSARY VISIT OR VISITS TO BUDAPEST BY PANAM OFFICIALS WHEN PLANS BECOME FIRM FOR THE OPENING OF SERVICE. WE

SUSPECT THAT ANSWER TO SECOND QUESTION WILL ONLY BE CLEAR AFTER WE HAVE OFFICIALLY DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH THE HUNGARIANS. (EMBASSY WILL RECALL THAT PART OF 1972 PACKAGE WAS THAT "FURTHER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PARTIES" WOULD BE A PREREQUISITE FOR THE INAUGURATION OF ANY SERVICES. ONCE WE HAVE FIRM WORD RE PANAM'S DESIRES, WE WILL HAVE TO 1) DECIDE WHETHER WE CONCUR AND 2) IF SO, APPROACH THE GOH).

4. HOWEVER, WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFO THE EMBASSY CAN PROVIDE (WITHOUT APPROACHING HUNGARIANS) IN RESPONSE TO THIRD QUESTION, AS WELL AS ON THE CURRENT SITUATION IN RELATION TO THE POSSIBILITY OF A FOREIGN AIRLINE DOING BUSINESS IN HUNGARY DIRECTLY FOR LOCAL CURRENCY. (DURING THE 1972 NEGOTIATIONS, HUNGARIAN DELEGATION SAID THAT IT EXPECTED FURTHER LIBERALIZATION IN GOH LAWS AND/OR REGULATIONS IN THIS LATTER AREA.) IT WOULD ALSO BE OF VALUE IF EMBASSY CAN, ON THE BASIS OF AVAILABLE INFO, ANSWER THE FIRST QUESTION ABOVE.

5. LASTLY, WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ANY THOUGHTS EMBASSY MAY HAVE ON WHAT, IF ANY, QUID PRO QUO GOH MIGHT SEEK IN CONJUNCTION WITH IMPLEMENTATION US AIRLINE RIGHTS - PARTICULARLY IF SALES FOR FORINTS MAY BE A PRACTICAL POSSIBILITY. RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: collinp0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE190917
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PJGLASOE:DAP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730911/aaaaahuz.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BUDAPEST 3184
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: collinp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19-Sep-2001 by thigpegh>; APPROVED <04 MAR 2002 by collinp0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR - PANAM SERVICE TO BUDAPEST
TAGS: ETRN, HU
To: BUDAPEST
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005